

Pimlico Community Development Authority
Meeting Summary
January 10, 2017
Pimlico Racetrack, 5201 Park Heights Avenue

In Attendance: Thomas J. Stosur, Camille Burke, Gloria Cinquegrani, Eric Lee, Marc Broady, Leslie McCuaig, Nechama Cox, Senator Barbara Robinson, Del. Antonio Hayes

Absent: Izzy Patoka, Ramsey Harris, John Henderson, Mereida Goodman, Senator Nathaniel Oaks

Role of the Pimlico Community Development Authority (PCDA)

PCDA serves an advisory role in determining funding allocations for Local Impact Aid funding. PCDA has the responsibility to advise the Mayor on priorities and the final funding decisions are part of the City budget approval by the Mayor and City Council.

Opening Remarks

Mayor Pugh highlighted two big changes from last year's spending plan: increasing the allocation for Park Heights Master Plan area from 75% to 85%, an area of highest need, and the focus on visible, physical redevelopment. She also highlighted the new multi-year draft spending plan and the many initiatives happening in Park Heights beyond slots revenue such as the transportation improvements at Park Circle and the modernization of the 21st Century School, Pimlico Elementary Middle school. The Mayor also emphasized the importance for development on the main corridors.

Presentation

Thomas J. Stosur, the Chair of PCDA, shared PCDA's public communication efforts, the FY19 spending plan, and the role of PCDA.

New PCDA community outreach efforts highlighted include [PCDA's webpage](#), [PCDA's FY18 calendar](#), and a storyboard (tracking and mapping slots investments) focus group to be held, along with background on slots funding (85% Park Heights, 15% One Mile Radius). Slots funding amounts included in the spending plans are estimates of the revenue received and in FY18 there was a shortfall, thereby decreasing the total in FY19. The estimated total in FY 19: Park Heights (85%) \$4,786,000; 1 Mile Radius (15%) \$845,000. Next steps include:

- Release DRAFT Spending Plan January 9
- Presentation of DRAFT Spending Plan January 10
- Public forum January 31
- Deadline for comments to PCDA February 9
- PCDA work session February 12
- Presentation of PCDA recommendations February 15 on the draft spending plan
- Release FINAL Spending Plan April

Presenters from multiple city agencies gave presentations on their efforts with slots funding. On [PCDA's website](#), you can find a copy of the presentation.

Park Heights Master Plan

Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD): HCD highlighted the multiple sources included in the Major Redevelopment Area (MRA) (\$17M spent to date, including \$8M in slots revenue); the corridor initiative from Park Circle to Springhill (including \$250,000 in booster incentives for homeownership in FY19); and the \$1.2M proposed for development support/MRA in FY19. HCD also shared background in the \$750,000 available in FY18 for development incentives near Pimlico EMS. In FY19, \$750,000 is proposed to be used as development incentives around Arlington Elementary School.

- Question: For the \$2.25M proposed for development incentives and the \$750k for development incentives, is there any consideration for a workforce in Park Heights? That is the approach HCD is trying to take as a part of some type of offering, making workforce a part of the initiatives.

Recreation and Parks: \$250,000 is available in FY19 for design, which will provide an opportunity for the master plan to grow the park and expand the CC Jackson footprint. This includes design of the entrances and finding more ways for vehicles to get to the recreation center and fields. CC Jackson is envisioned as a hub and community center for residents and will have a positive impact on development around it. The planning effort will look into how to attract more people to the recreation center and how to increase use of the facility both indoors and outdoors. The FY20 funding of \$1.2M in slots funding is programming for construction of the park. It was also shared that in FY20 \$1.8M in bond funds is already allocated.

- Stakeholder meetings will begin in March followed by a community charrette.

Library feasibility study: spending plan recommendations include \$500,000 in slots funds is allocated for design of the new library and in FY2020 and 2021, \$5,000,000 is programmed towards construction of the library. Currently, Department of General Services (DGS), Enoch Pratt Libraries, and Planning are working with an architectural consultant on a feasibility study for the library.

- PCDA requested more information on the architectural consultant. The name of the consultant is [Gant Brunnett](#).

Mayor's Office of Human Services (MOHS): Previously Family league administered grants with slots revenue. In FY19, summer and youth programming, highlights include: 310 youth received services; funded 6 different after school programs; \$296,400 has been spent; Police came to MOHS and said middle school students don't have much to do and MOHS helped get an arts program at Langston Hughes.

- Check out [summer funding applications](#)! The Baltimore Summer Funding Collaborative consists of 11 organizations that fund high-quality summer programs that serve children and young adults from low-income families in Baltimore City. For more information and to apply, please visit the Summer Funding Collaborative's website by clicking [here](#). The submission deadline is February 2, 2018.
- Ask: if you are not a youth program, MOHS is looking for reviewers; please [click here](#) to sign up. A stipend is provided.
- PCDA requested to clarify the amount provide in FY19. For Human Services (Out of School Time) in FY19, \$520,000 in slots funds is recommended to continue Human Services (Out of School Time programs) consistent with how funds are being used in FY18 for after school and summer programs.

Park Heights Renaissance, Inc.: Per the draft FY19 spending plan recommendations, PHR is listed to receive funding for operating expenses (\$500,000), clean and green (\$100,000), education programming (HIPYPY and school grants) (\$100,000), and match for community schools coordinators (\$40,000)

- What is HIPYPY? HIPYPY stands for Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters and is an evidence-based program that works with families in the home to support parents in their critical role as their child's first and most important teacher.
- School grants? PHR provides grants to each of the four public schools in Park Heights to support student activities above and beyond their current allocations. For example, last month PHR partnered with a trade union and received coast for all of Pimlico Elementary Schools; Jimmy Mitchell (community schools coordinator) administers a food pantry at Arlington; and eye exams for students and eye glasses.

Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice: \$200,000 is proposed in the draft FY19 spending plan for Safe Streets, which is a violence prevention and interruption program. Safe Streets has served the Park Heights since 2013 and has hiring individuals who are viewed as credible messengers to build relationships with young people get in front violence before it occurs.

- PCDA requested to clarification regarding expanding the current site vs. proposing news sites. MOCJ explained the overall strategy is to strengthen and expand the program by strengthening current sites and adding locations.
- Expansion: Current streets include Park Heights Ave and South of Coldspring; east and west of Park Heights. Expansion is an open question. Previously, this was driven through a competitive RFP process and the model involves the city contracting with an operator. Each site has a community based organization and is an operator and is vetted through the competitive process to include potential new areas. An expansion site is about the size of a police post. The current site is post 612. The criteria for an eligible site includes any police post that is in the top 25% for gun violence. 20-25 posts in Baltimore City that meet that criteria. The RFP would contain all eligible sites.
 - Note, when current site (612) was created, BPD site boundaries were different, but for evaluation purposes the boundaries were kept the same. The numbers are different because of the transition. The site straddles post 612 and 614.
- PCDA requested more information about expanding the current operator (PHR) and MOCJ shared that the RFP will be open and can include existing operators.
- The replication cost is around \$500,000 per site and PHR is below that right now. Most sites currently are between 300,000-400,000.

Neighborhood Initiative Competitive Grants: In the Draft FY19 spending plan, neighborhood initiative competitive grants are available for community organizations to implement a wide array of community initiatives that demonstrate significant community impact. \$250,000 is available for the Park Heights Master Plan area. These funds are available for projects that help neighborhoods to remain and become welcoming, safe, and vibrant places.

- Question: Can grants be used for cybersecurity and business development? There may be additional funds to leverage in these areas, including from the state.

Park Circle: There is an on-going intersection improvement project at Park Circle. It was awarded in September and the Notice to Proceeds was end of October. The project will take 22-26 months for completion and is estimated to cost \$5.7M. The project includes pedestrian enhancement, lighting,

landscape, and protected left turns along with other improvements. The Department of Transportation has more background they can share if you reach out to your DOT liaison. This effort is not funded with slots funding.

- Discussion about bike trails. DOT shared there is a bike lane design on Park Heights avenue. The question was asked how the bike lane is funded. There is no slots funding currently allocated for bike lanes.

1 Mile Radius

Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. provides grant administration and technical assistance to recipients of slots funding in the 1 mile radius for projects not implemented by the City of Baltimore.

Northwest Community Planning Forum (NWCPF)

Casa and CHAI: In FY19, \$150,000 in slots funds is allocated to employing two culturally competent organizers (one a full-time employee of CHAI and one a part-time employee of Casa de Maryland).

CHIMES: In FY19, \$100,000 in slots funds is allocated to contracting with CHIMES to continue street cleaning services in Glen and Fallstaff.

- Question: Can Park Heights residents be included in initiatives such as CHIMES or other programming? Possible employment opportunities?

CHAI: In FY19, \$100,000 in slots funds is allocated to CHAI to continue strategic housing redevelopment programs, particularly in Glen and Fallstaff. This includes a plan to stabilize Glen Hills Neighborhood; housing counseling; buying vacant buildings and constructing housing; and leveraging slots funding with private money, such as with banks.

Neighborhood Initiative Competitive Grants: In the Draft FY19 spending plan, neighborhood initiative competitive grants are available for community organizations to implement a wide array of community initiatives that demonstrate significant community impact. \$70,000 is available for the Northwest Community Planning Forum. These funds are available for projects that help neighborhoods to remain and become welcoming, safe, and vibrant places.

Healthy Neighborhoods, Inc. (HNI) shared that previous funded grants have included the Baltimore Terps football program (e.g. lights they've used); Project Pneuma (yoga at the police training academy); hats for little league program in NW HS; and the featherstone music festival. HNI shared that small grants quickly funded for eligible, important community activities such as events.

Northern Parkway Beautification: In FY19, \$25,000 in slots funds is allocated to Recreation and Parks to continue maintenance, watering, and beautification of Northern Parkway including flowerbeds, shrubs, and trees.

- Question: Why is this being subsidized by City funds? Rec and Park shared that their operating budget goes to maintain parks so this is technically out of their jurisdiction.

Liberty-Wabash

In FY19, \$104,000 in slots funds is allocated to replacing broken/cracked sidewalk panels on the 3500 block of Dolfield Avenue and add new sidewalk as needed. This effort will create brand new sidewalks to complement the upgrades to the retail. A community member shared, "We asked for it, thank you".

Ambassador Theater/community development:

In FY19, \$294,000 in slots funds is allocated to redevelopment of the Ambassador Theatre or other community development priorities such as those identified in the Forest Park/Calvin Rodwell INSPIRE plan. Funds were re-allocated to support the Ambassador/community development.

- Question: Is funding being used to stabilize and redevelop it so it can be sold? Is the city selling it? It was noted that it's not currently city-owned and it won't be in the future. When there's an auction someone will bid on it. It's not city-owned, but we want to use city-funding to bring it back. This is a historic landmark; sister to the Senator Theatre. There is no consensus that it's a money pit. Roof is the main thing that needs to be replaced. Re-uses could include becoming a community arts center or hosting the Coppin State arts program; start imagining artists and a theater there.

Neighborhood Initiative Competitive Grants: In the Draft FY19 spending plan, neighborhood initiative competitive grants are available for community organizations to implement a wide array of community initiatives that demonstrate significant community impact. \$50,000 is available for the Liberty-Wabash. These funds are available for projects that help neighborhoods to remain and become welcoming, safe, and vibrant places.

Coldspring

In FY19, \$41,000 in slots funds is allocated to the Mercantile.

Community Homework: Comment on spending plan to provide comments to PCDA for them to make informed recommendations to the Mayor. Prepare for the conversation about competitive grants on January 31.

Q&A:

- Wendi from HCD was thanked for her presentation on housing initiatives and funding expended in Park Heights. It would be useful to also know the difference between occupied and unoccupied and what percentage of contractor work is undertaken with slots funds. How much is going to MBEs/WBEs and others?
- Park and Rec. Community groups are charged to use the fields. If public funds are used for creations, how does the community group not pay for something they are already paying for?
- Comment on Safe streets. Currently operating in post 612 (e.g. Oswego mall, Shirley, some of Towanda) and they focus on gun violence. The proposal was to expand to 614 (PH and Belvedere).
- If bike lanes are proposed on Park Heights Avenue, how are they being funded?
- MWIA put in a request for funding, primarily for NW Park. They are seeking \$150,000 for a feasibility study to convert a large white field house to a playground. The city is already funding renovation of park, but there is this old building. Also to convert smaller building to a little concession stand and small restroom.
- Why not give money from library to Langston Hughes?
- Where are slots funds for Human Services going? Only Park Heights Master Plan, there other funds for other areas.
- PHR Clean and Green. Greenways on Loyola Northway. When will the community see the new equipment? The grass is very long. What areas are cleaned and greened?

- Are hot spots being taken into consideration for the safe streets initiative? Yes, hot spots are taken into consideration and the efforts are based on hot spots. Belvedere Avenue is certainly one of those criteria.
- Question about the amount of funding being used to prop up the Ambassador Theatre. Why not put a new storefront on Gwynn Oaks? Do something else with the Ambassador, it's a money pit.
- HCD, is there a list of the 30+ properties that are available?
- Is there money to help supplement purchase, some type of time to keep them from re-selling? Same type of restriction like the V2V booster, 5 years.
- Langston Hughes has a major cyber security program (160 applicants) and they already have 60 people calling in for session 2. Participants can go to class for 12 weeks. They have to be drug free and no felonies.
- Will the money be recouped that is spent on the Ambassador? No.
- Will the 15% change? The 1 mile radius currently is 70% (NWCPF), 25% (Liberty-Wabash), and 5% (Coldspring). Does the area receiving the 70% doesn't need that much? Will there be an adjustment? It's based on population and area; not need. Suggestion was made to look into the percentage allocations.
- Why do the majority of funds in the NW area go to non-profits vs. mostly city agencies in Park Heights? Why is NW different? These items were identified as priorities by communities previously and have continued.
- Sisters Saving the city shared the idea of a youth village, giving young people entertainment and opportunities. There is \$520,000 available for Human Services programming in FY19.